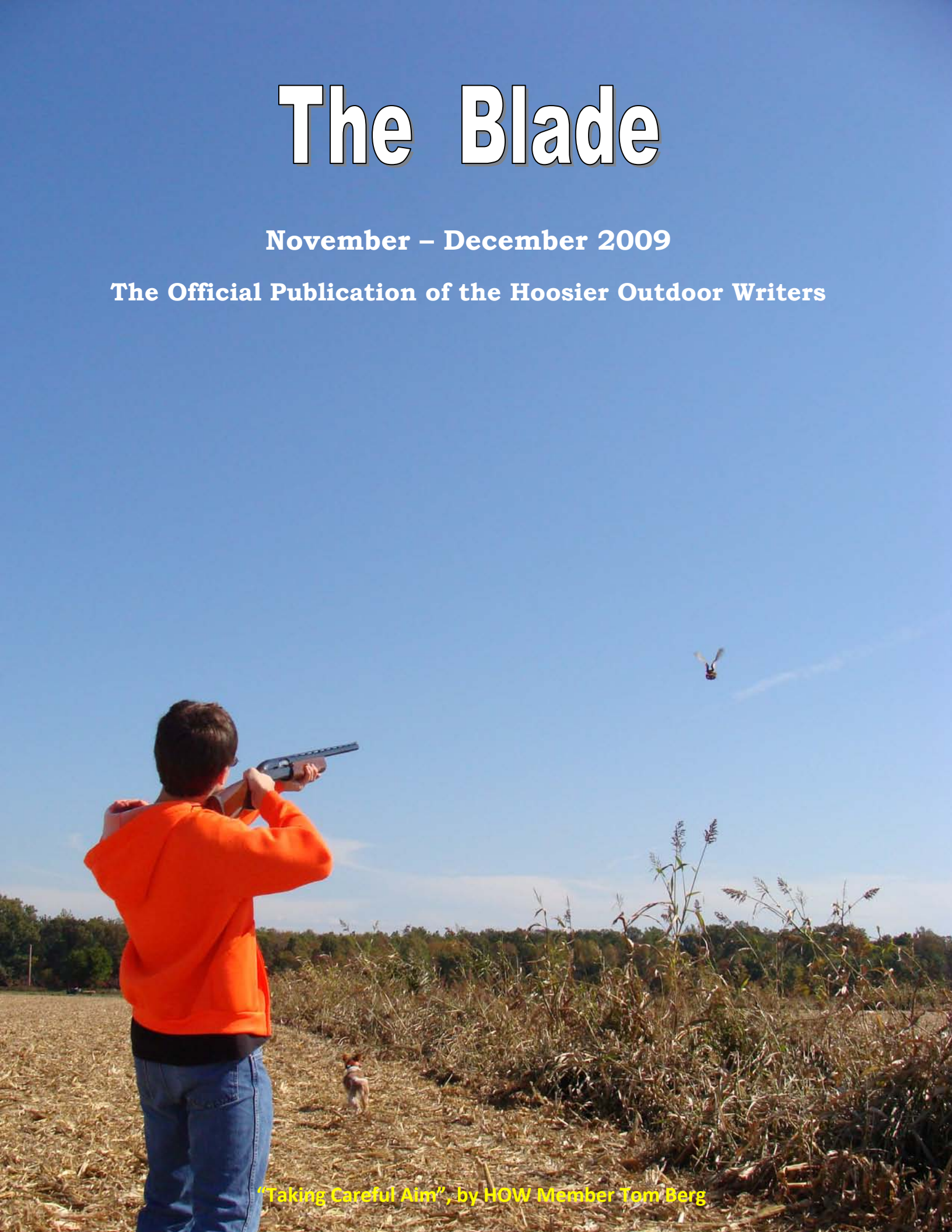


The Blade

November – December 2009

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Taking Careful Aim", by HOW Member Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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President's Message

by Bryan Poynter

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you... while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."
John Muir

The quote above is from one of America's earliest wilderness preservationists and founder of the Sierra Club. While his work was done in the late 19th century his words could not be more fitting today!

As an avid hunter and outdoor enthusiast I was struck

with nature's peace on the opening morning of deer firearms season just a few short weeks ago. The morning was as peaceful and calming as any I could recall from memory. There were no mishaps or forgotten necessities as seem to accompany the much anticipated moment. There was no inclement weather. There was no anxiety...just anticipation of the coming moments and the reminiscing of terrific bonds of friendship that only a hunting camp can produce.

The sun's first light peered over a distant rolling hill in Franklin County and with it blew the freshness of a new day! When you are in the mindset to take the good tidings that Mother Nature hands out it seems that all senses are keenly aware of what is actually taking place around you.

As I was gathering my senses to focus on my intended pursuit in the final minutes before sunrise I was struck with the symphony of sounds all around me. As I was noticing each section of this natural orchestra it was as if I was conducting their beginnings. Not really, of course. But, I was experiencing each element, each section of nature's orchestra until they all blended into a really sweet piece of music.

I was so struck with all that was firing around me...a Pileated woodpecker banging on a tree, crows playing in stereo, geese honking high overhead, whistling wings from a small flock of ducks, squirrels barking, turkeys clucking and purring, dogs howling, small finches and chickadees fluttering in nearby pines, a distant cow bellowing, an owl hooting, coyotes yelping, bugs of all sorts...all together, as if playing to an audience of one.

Those were the main instruments in this orchestra but there were the accompanying sounds of rustling on the forest floor, the breeze encouraging the leaves from their limbs high above and of course, a distant car on a gravel road. For those brief moments all of my senses were firing and as John Muir described above...my cares of that moment did drop like the falling leaves around me.

As the saying goes, "hunting isn't a matter of life and death...it's more important than that!"

Blessings to all during this Christmas season.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

Welcome To New Member:

Ken Barnes
Associate Member
Bristow, IN
Sponsor: Bryan Poynter

New Email Address:

Jason Boer: bowdad@gmail.com

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Jim “Moose” Carden – President 1982/83
Gary Carden
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Dick Forbes
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – President 1976
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – President of HOW
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Butch Tackett
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009

Support the Bayou Bill Education Campaign

Dear Conservation Friends,

December 15, 2009

The BILLY SCIFRES that so many Hoosier outdoor enthusiasts knew as Bayou Bill has written his last story. We read his down-home tales, marveled at his life-like photographs, tried his homemade recipes, and listened to him spin his stories from his 84 year-encounter with nature. His written words spoke to us, and for us, over the 45 years of articles, “Lines and Shots,” on the front page of the Sports Section in the Indianapolis Star. He’s gone now, but his Crothersville “how-to savvy,” and his tales from the “olden days,” must be passed on. Now is the time when we all should give thanks for being able to be a part of his life--the past, today and into the future. We must now try to pass on his natural resource heritage to future generations.

Thank you, Billy N. Scifres (1925-2009), for your Bayou Bill “Lines and Shots” with your pearls of wisdom articles, educating us about nature, and giving us a down-to-earth appreciation for the complexity of our outdoor environment. Yes, he is gone, but he will never be forgotten.

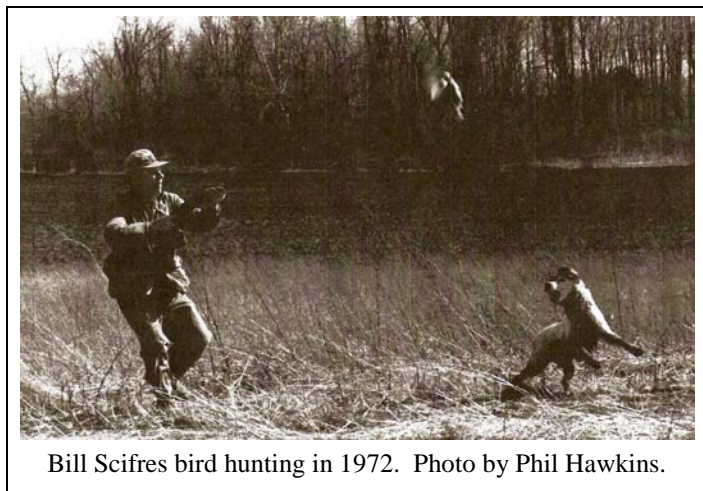
At his memorial service, his family asked that in lieu of flowers, friends could make contributions to the Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) which was founded in 1938. Bill gave the Conservation Clubs his support for all those years. We feel it is very important to preserve the history and legacy of Bill’s work. IWF has discussed this with the family, and we have determined that the monies donated for the Bayou Bill Education Campaign will be deposited into the IWF Wildlife Education Endowment Fund. As most endowments operate, the interest generated from the Fund will be used for education programs.

To date we have received almost \$2,000, and we have set a goal of \$10,000 for the Education Endowment Fund by the end of 2010 through our Bayou Bill Education Campaign. I ask that you help us in taking on this educational effort that Bill Scifres championed throughout his life. We are all aware of the status of our national economy, and it is a particularly serious problem with the non-profit organizations like the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Please help IWF carry on our educational programs to promote the protection and restoration of our valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Through your tax deductible donation, we can increase our efforts on behalf of Bayou Bill’s legacy.

I look forward to hearing from you, and if you have any questions, please call our office at 800-347-3445. Donation checks should be made payable to the Indiana Wildlife Education Endowment Fund, in Memory of Bayou Bill Scifres. Mail to Indiana Wildlife Federation, 4715 West 106th Street, Zionsville, IN 46077. Thank you for your commitment to wildlife education – your support is appreciated.

Yours for the Resource,

Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Director of Development, Indiana Wildlife Federation



Bill Scifres bird hunting in 1972. Photo by Phil Hawkins.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

SUCCESS IS IN THE CARDS

by Mike Schoonveld

As most of us stumble down the unlit path of freelance outdoor communicating, one of the things we strive to achieve is “professionalism.” We want the editors and producers with whom we deal to perceive us as professionals. We want our corporate members to perceive us as professionals. We want the people involved in the stories we are telling to perceive us as professionals.

So what’s a sure sign someone is a professional? They have a business card! Have you ever noticed a first-time attendee at a conference scribbling down their contact information on a notepad to give to a corporate rep at one of the displays? Have you ever sent a query or introductory letter to an editor and failed to include a business card? How unprofessional!

Business cards are a dime a dozen. Actually, if you print your own on your personal printer at home they are about a dollar a dozen by the time you factor in colored ink, special paper and the time spent cutting the print-outs into individual cards. You can go to a print shop and have them professionally made for you, but they charge you a set-up fee and have a minimum order of 500 or 1000 cards. Figure about fifty-bucks for a thousand of them (probably \$40 for 500) and you have a heck of a lot of 5-cent cards.

Or, you can click through a collage of advertisements and come-ons at www.vistaprint.com and have 250 professional business cards made for your freelance endeavors for the affordable price of FREE (plus shipping charges of \$5.67). That pins the actual price at 2-point-something cents each.

I have several boxes of Vistaprint cards in my desk drawer. One is for my outdoor writing business, another for my Lake Michigan charter fishing business. I have another set I carry when I’m nailing down permissions in the summer to hunt and trap on various farms around my area. When I approach a landowner, I hand them a card with all my information – including hunting or trapping license number, email, home and cell phone numbers, as well as my hunter education and trapper education certificate numbers.

Be a pro. Say: “Here’s my card.”



Enjoy The Woods While Waiting For The Big One

by Mike McKee

Be assured the majority of bucks that are going to be bagged in any given area are killed by the end of the opening weekend of the firearms season. Even more will have been shot at or had other frightening encounters with humans.

The deer firearms season, which opened Nov. 14, continues until one-half hour after sunset on Sunday. Although the odds of getting one of the big boys is dwindling, don't forget the real reason you're out there is that sitting in the deer woods is far more entertaining than thousands of other things you do the rest of the year.

And so it was the evening before Thanksgiving after I'd missed those hot, rut-fueled early days. I'd nestled into a deadfall that seemed perfectly situated at the end of a pine grove that sloped down to within 40 yards of an impenetrable, 10-acre swamp.

The main deer trails were 100 yards upwind and a paved road was 70 yards to my backside - a combination that likely insured the rake-racked bruin that traveled these parts would be unable to out-flank me.

At sunset, as if on cue, does filtered-out of the marsh. First a single, then a mother and twin fawns. Five were in view at one time, all generally wandering towards a distant corn field. A fox squirrel ratcheted-up the attention level as it noisily scrambled between oak branches. An owl sailed silently past in the fading light. Ten minutes before the end of shooting time, a muffled twig-snap followed by a scuffling of leaves came from just beyond sight in the pines.

Game over, I figured. Somehow the buck got around me and was moments from smelling me out. But, the rustling and shuffling increased and headed in my direction. At least it wasn't the big guy, I thought, but a group of does surely were about to bust me.

Without forewarning, a branch-clattering uproar ensued as four turkeys took turns whoomp-whooping up into their roosts. Overcast skies made it seem like I should have been out of the woods, but there were still a couple of minutes of shooting time left when a rustle at the edge of the swamp spiked the adrenaline again.

The steady, muffled crunch of leaves was marching my way as I struggled to pinpoint the brute. This was going down to the wire. Would I have time to shoot or would a trophy pass in the dark?

My eyes frantically scanned at deer-level as I didn't dare glance at my watch until I had a bead on him. At 25 yards, he was still unseen and I was literally crawling out of my skin. Finally, resigned to fate, I looked lower and spotted an opossum. It sure sounded like the big one that lives on in hopes and dreams!



Photo by Tom Berg

HOW Member News



Evie Kirkwood Receives National Environmental Award

At the recent National Recreation and Parks Association Congress in Salt Lake City, St. Joseph County Parks Director, Evie Kirkwood received the first-ever Barb King Environmental Leadership Award recognizing her environmental ethic and career commitment to environmental education and interpretation of natural and cultural history.

Kirkwood was recognized for her achievements in protecting land resources in St. Joseph County, either through the county parks operations, or in partnership with other agencies such as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Kirkwood has instituted resource management plans, such as the deer reduction program at St. Patrick's County Park. She was also lauded for her extensive efforts to shepherd programming that promotes wise use of our natural resources for schools, families and individuals, as well as her efforts to offer these programs at minimal cost or no cost to underserved groups. This includes activities such as workshops on fly fishing and solar cooking, school programs on the historic fur trade

and maple syrup, Outdoor Adventures Day camp and more. Several interpretive programs at the County Parks have received regional and national recognition.

Kirkwood was also recognized for her regional education efforts through the St. Joseph County Parks' partnership with WNIT Public Television in presenting Outdoor Elements, now in its ninth season. The half hour nature show, produced on location, airs in 22 counties and highlights the natural history of our region, with guests ranging from park interpreters to citizen scientists.

Recently, Kirkwood was written up as a "Green Giant" in the October issue of *Parks and Recreation* magazine, a publication serving the parks and recreation profession nationally. The Barb King Award is named after the late Barb King, co-founder of Landscape Structures, Inc., a provider of play structures for parks, schools and community gathering places. She was a champion of children, health and the environment.



Photo above: Evie Kirkwood examines macro-invertebrates in her net at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve in northern Indiana's St. Joseph County.

Team Creason Paddles Florida

Rich Creason and his wife Susan made a recent trip to southwest Florida, where they explored a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. They visited Punta Gorda at Charlotte Harbor, and immediately started exploring.

The first thing on the list was some beach-combing, and they found lots of shells and quite a few fossilized shark teeth. Then they broke out the metal detectors to search for other treasures.

Their exploits over the next couple of days included fishing out on the Gulf of Mexico for mackerel, snappers, triggerfish, grouper and plenty of other toothy fish. They also got to do some birdwatching – and Florida is literally teeming with birds of all descriptions.



“Luckily,” said Rich Creason, “we weren’t completely exhausted yet, because we had booked a kayak trip through the mangroves with Grande Tours. Once again, we had many choices of outings with this organization. They offer wildlife tours, kids and adult fishing trips, sunset tours, and exploring the mangroves with a naturalist guide. We chose the naturalist trip. After a short learning session with the kayak, our guide Chris led us down the river, under the bridge, and into the mangrove tunnel. This waterway was about as wide as our paddle, and slightly higher than our heads. We saw a variety of birds and shells, and small critters (no alligators or snakes) and learned about the different kinds of mangrove trees and how they grow.”

Creason added: “If your Florida trip still requires a visit to Mouseland, Punta Gorda and all its nearby special activities is only about 125 miles southwest of Orlando. Go to www.charlotteharbortravel.com for more information on things you can enjoy here. Allow yourself two or three extra days and get away from the crowds.”



Brandon Butler Bags Buck

Monroe County is where Brandon Butler ended a successful hunt in November. He is shown in the photo at left, posing with a fine 7-pointer.

“I picked him off still-hunting along the base of a ridge,” he said. “It happened super fast. I didn’t have much time to judge. Just a good ol’ Indiana buck, taken on an awesome hunt.”

There is still a little time to get out there and get your own deer!

Keaton Family Grows

HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton and his wife Rita announced the marriage of their son Will Keaton recently. Will married Nicci Spalding (Nicole Cassandra Spalding) on October 10th at Bishop Hill house near Madison, Indiana in an outdoor ceremony. They reported that the weather was absolutely perfect.

As many HOW members may remember, Will was an active student member of HOW from age 14 until he started college and did not have time to keep up the writing. As a youth, Will attended more HOW conferences than most current HOW members have!

Bill has been busy, too. “Last week I was hunting quail in southwest Oklahoma. I’m in Madison this morning, and I plan to look for a monster buck I shot the second day of the season (but did not find). I shot it at 20 yards with a 50 cal. muzzleloader with a magnum load of powder (150 grains). I hit him right behind the shoulder where you are supposed to and I heard him go down. I went back to get my 4-wheeler and camera, and when I got below the spot where I had shot him, I found a blood trail with pieces of lung in it. I expected to find it within 100 feet. I blood trailed it for 5½ hours and almost a mile before I lost the trail and it got too late to keep looking. I would at least like to recover the nice rack now. I am sure the coyotes have eaten him.”



Young Nicholas Martino Gets First Deer During Youth Season

Here is a photo (left) of Joe Martino’s 8 year-old son, Nicholas. Nicholas has been seen in The Blade in the past, grinning after successful fishing trips and dove hunts.

This time, Nicholas is shown with his first deer that he harvested during this year’s youth season in September. He shot it with a Remington .410.

The only sad part of this story is that the youth season is doe only. It’s sad because Nicholas had clear shots at two different bucks that he had to pass on before he got a shot at this doe!



Schoonveld Adds To Life List

Bird-watchers keep a list of all the species of birds they have spotted in their lives. Mike Schoonveld has a different sort of life-list. His isn't birds; it's a list of all the different species of fish he's caught in his life. From the first stunted bluegill he cane-poled out of a clay pit near his boyhood home, to the Arctic Circle, the tropics and across North America, he's assembled quite a list. In October, he added a new species to his list: a pink salmon.



The fish was caught in the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan – the only place in the Great Lakes where runs of this diminutive member of the salmon family occur. Mike was on a travel writers' trip to the Upper Peninsula sponsored by Travel Michigan.

From the photo, you can see it was a cold, raw day below the locks and dam separating the St. Marys from Lake Superior. Mike reports the weather improved as he spent the next several days kayaking the Two Hearted River and fishing for other species of fish. Mike also caught king salmon, walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and a muskie on his trip to the U.P.



Sharon Wiggins Likes Backyard Critters (But Only If They Aren't Gluttons)

“Hey, who replaced the fall flowers with PLASTIC holly and ivy and glittery stuff?!?”

“Here in Clinton County,” said Wiggins, “I get photos for my *Journal & Courier* Community Blog by focusing on the birds and beasts just beyond our windows. Okay, so I do bait some of the furry critters with peanuts. When you're promoting wildlife-friendly backyards it's justified, right?”

“This chipmunk (above) has a prime burrow location in the flowerbed below our picture window. Since we had often seen him (or her) peering in at us while we're watching TV, we put a little something on the sill to keep him happy. The competition for chipmunk food in this area is getting tough as their population grows.”

“Most all critters are welcome at our place, although I must admit to sending our old lab out to chase off raccoons. A few times I've used my trusty Red Ryder BB gun to sting some furry behinds when too many fox squirrels were gobbling up the birdseed, too.”

“Try saving a place for wildlife in your yard. It's a hoot.”

Gene Clifford Promotes Ice Fishing Benefit And Sells a Better Icefishing Gadget

Valparaiso's Gene Clifford brought some information to our attention to publicize a fundraiser for the Porter County Conservation Club. The club plans to repair a wetlands dam that was damaged by last year's floods, and they are having an ice fishing derby to raise the money. "Go to www.IceShanty.com to get an update on next year's Ice Fishing Derby at the Porter Co. Conservation Club," said Clifford. "It is anticipated that it will take place sometime in mid-to-late January, 2010. More information about the PCCC can be obtained by going to www.conservationsclub.com."

"While on the subject of ice fishing, I am still selling the Ice Kicker #1. This ingenious device enables a hand powered ice auger to be transformed into one of the most practical, comfortable (not to mention affordable) power augers on the market today. Not only does it not use smelly gas or oil, but, with the power of a 14.4v or 18v (preferred) portable battery-operated drill, you can actually have fun drilling holes right inside your ice shelter."

"With a fully charged 18v drill one can easily drill up to twenty 6" holes in a foot of ice, without wearing out your shoulders or working up a sweat. Just think, you could charge your fishing buddies 25 cents per hole and recoup some of you costs in one season of fishing!"

"Any ice fisherman interested in purchasing the Ice Kicker #1 for \$20 plus \$5 postage can call me at 219-462-7305 or email me at HuntFishBowlFly@verizon.net."

Unusual Nature Photos

Tom Berg Asks: "What The Heck Is This?"

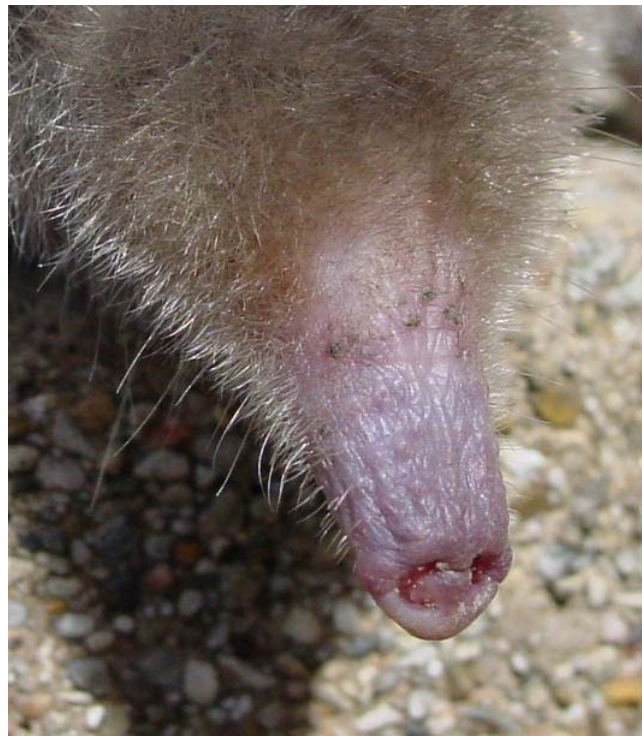
HOW Executive Director Tom Berg took this photo earlier this year in northwest Indiana.

Do you know what it is? Take a guess! If you think you know, send the answer to me via email at thomas.berg@comcast.net and I'll let you know if you're right. Chances are, quite a few HOW members will know exactly what it is (at least I hope so).

Everyone who doesn't know will just have to wait until the next issue of The Blade to find out!

Here's a little hint:

It is a mammal, but it is not a normal household pet.



One of the Mortal Sins of Journalism

by Phil Bloom

What do William Shakespeare and Osama bin Laden have in common?

The same thing as newspaper columnist Mike Barnicle, historian authors Stephen Ambrose and Doris Kearns Goodwin, singer/songwriters Johnny Cash and George Harrison, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, and U.S. vice president Joe Biden.

According to numerous websites, each has been accused or suspected of plagiarism, one of the two mortal sins of journalism.

The other wrongdoing is the fabrication of news sources or events that are portrayed as reality, a deceitful practice that crashed the budding careers of Jayson Blair at the New York Times and Stephen Glass at The New Republic.

The latter sin amounts to fraud, the other theft. Each is dishonest.

Unfortunately, plagiarism occurs in many circles and has become a grave enough concern in academia that several universities have established websites to instruct students on dos and don'ts when it comes to writing term papers.

Plagiarism happens when one person takes the intellectual property of another and passes it off as his or her own work. It is a two-step action: stealing someone else's effort and then lying about it.

Plagiarism violates copyright law, a concept rooted in the early 1700s that provides legal protection to intellectual property. The "Legal Handbook for Freelancers" is an excellent source of information for understanding copyright. Prepared by Bill Powell, legal counsel for the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the 64-page book can be purchased online at www.shop.owaa.org for \$15 (\$18 for non-members).

According to the U.S. Copyright Office (www.copyright.gov), copyright law doesn't protect ideas or facts, but it does protect the manner and method in which an idea or information is expressed. Does that mean anything that's ever been printed or "published" (i.e., a book, magazine article, newspaper column, sheet music, recording, web page, etc.) is off limits? No.

As an example, works considered in the public domain are not covered by copyright and are therefore fair game. That applies to most items published more than 75 years ago. Items published since 1978 are covered for the life of the author, plus 75 years. What about items published less than 75 years ago but before 1978? That's tricky enough to suggest the safest route is to treat it as copyright protected.

Does all of this mean that everything you do as an outdoor communicator has to be an original thought or you risk being the target of a plagiarism lawsuit? Of course not.

It's perfectly acceptable in most instances to borrow material that helps you tell your story as long as you properly cite the source, whether you are directly quoting passages or rephrasing them in your own words.

The bottom line is that charges of plagiarism are easy to avoid, even for the laziest of writers. Just give credit where credit is due.

Editor's note: This article is being printed as a result of a recent occurrence of possible plagiarism involving a HOW member. The issue has been resolved, but this is an important reminder that plagiarism must be avoided at all times. Please see the HOW Code of Ethics printed on pages 14-15 for more information.

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS CODE OF ETHICS

PURPOSE: Members are expected to conduct their professional business and personal relationships with integrity and with a sense of propriety that behooves themselves, Hoosier Outdoor Writers and their profession.

FORMAT: A committee of three Active members known as the Ethics Committee shall be appointed by the President to handle all ethical questions. The chairman to be named from the Committee shall investigate charges of ethical violation and report findings to the President, who may request a Board of Directors hearing before making a final decision. Minor infractions may be handled by the President immediately and forcefully. All other cases shall be referred to the Board of Directors.

PENALTIES: Penalties may include public or private reprimand or suspension and/or expulsion as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

CANON I

Members shall deal fairly and ethically with all phases of the outdoor industry.

1. In soliciting or accepting equipment or service on any basis, a member must establish and agree with the provider on the conditions of acceptance.
2. Except for consignment agreements or temporary loan, members shall not solicit samples without requesting to be billed. Except for any not-for-profit or charitable outdoor promotion, members are prohibited from soliciting equipment for purposes not associated with their journalistic pursuits.
3. Members shall not make any agreements with, promise or trade of favorable editorial comment in exchange for equipment, endorsement, services or monetary remuneration and shall refuse any such items that are conditional upon a promise to produce such editorial.
4. A member may accept accommodations, travel, meals or other related services if there is a reasonable expectation of a salable story or other communication resulting from such services. Members are obligated to deal honestly with such hosts prior to accepting the trip.

CANON II

Members shall obey all fish, game and conservation regulations.

1. A member shall never knowingly violate fish and game laws or regulations. It is the obligation of all members to become knowledgeable of the laws and regulations in any area where they fish, hunt or visit. Members should discourage others from violations and report violations which they witness.

CANON III

In dealing with editors and publishers, members shall provide original materials or qualified articles.

1. A member shall not knowingly sell rights that he does not own. If a member sells reprint rights, or rewrites a previously published story, he shall apprise the new purchaser of the prior usage.
2. If photos or editorial matter have been furnished by others, the member shall so advise the publisher and request the proper credits be given.
3. Members should avoid submitting the same or a closely equivalent article or photo to any other publication in the same or an overlapping field prior to the publication by the first publisher without its permission.

CANON IV

Members shall maintain integrity with the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and their fellow communicators.

1. Hoosier Outdoor Writers' (HOW) name shall not be used to imply or indicate directly HOW's endorsement of any action, product, idea or event without written consent of the Board of Directors.
2. No member may use HOW stationary except for official HOW business.
3. Members who are not of "Active" status are prohibited from using their HOW affiliation as a means to obtain free or discounted goods or services without indicating their inactive status as a paid journalist of outdoor-oriented information.

Best Dog Photo Contest

“We want to see your dog!!”



HOW Supporting Member Tri-Tronics, based in Tucson, Arizona, kicked-off their recent “ENTER-TO-WIN DOG PHOTO CONTEST” on November 10th, 2009. The grand prize includes one (1) Single-Dog Tri-Tronics System of the winner's choice.

“We want to see our customers’ dogs!” stated Gary Williams, marketing and sales manager. “The contest is open to all types of dogs: hunting dogs, the family pets, or even mischievous puppies.”

For a chance to win, visit <http://www.tritronics.com/contest.asp>. Enter your name, email address, mailing address, and your dog’s name. Contestants may only enter one photograph per person. All entries must be received by February 28, 2010. Only jpg’s, gif’s, or PDF files under 1MB will be accepted. Winners will be announced on March 19th, 2010.

“At Tri-Tronics, we receive a ton of emails from people that want to show off pictures of their dog wearing a Tri-Tronics collar,” exclaimed Williams. “Our contest is a great way to reward people that are passionate about both Tri-Tronics and training their dog.” Contestants’ photographs may be displayed on <http://www.tritronics.com/contest.asp> and on the Tri-Tronics Facebook page.

Tri-Tronics training collars are backed by a 30-day money-back, 2-year warranty. All products are made in the USA.

Contact Information:

Warner Smith

wsmith@tritronics.com

(800) 456-4343 ext. 7403



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2009

Announcing launch of WildIndiana.com

Long-time Indiana outdoor writer launches new online presence.



Lebanon, Indiana - Veteran Indiana outdoor writer Brent T. Wheat has launched a new internet website that covers "Everything in the Hoosier Outdoors."

Wheat wrote the "Out in the Open" weekly outdoors column that appeared in many central Indiana newspapers for nearly 18 years before putting the franchise on hiatus earlier this year.

"I just got tired of meeting weekly deadlines," Wheat said, "so I took a break. Of course the urge to share my stories and photos never stopped, so, after a few months, I decided to develop this new site to reconnect with both of my fans!"

WildIndiana.com is comprised of two primary areas: previous "Out in the Open" columns and the "WildBlog," a daily blog of adventures, news stories and commentary. The site promises new content every day, sometimes several times a day. "One of my goals is to make it very much 'Web 2.0' by providing near-real time updates from the field," Wheat noted. "Internet technology has made running a website easier than ever, so I can concentrate primarily on the creative side of outdoor media instead of worrying about unruly servers and broken links."

Brent Wheat is an award-winning writer, photographer and speaker about the Hoosier outdoors whose work has appeared across the country in all forms of media. He will soon be presenting outdoor updates on 91.1 radio and appearing in a weekly segment on "SWAT Magazine Television" on The Outdoor Channel beginning in January, 2010. Wheat is also a lieutenant and Public Information Officer for the Lebanon Police Department.

Brent Wheat can be reached at: btwheat@wildindiana.com

Media contact only: cellular phone: (317) 370-3442

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



George H. Halley Kenora, Ontario

Lodge owner, fisherman, hunter, trapper and friend of HOW
December 27, 1942 – December 12, 2009

Tribute by Jack Spaulding

When I called-in and she answered the phone, I could tell by the sound of my wife Chris' voice something was very wrong. Sobbing, she said, "I didn't want to tell you until you were home and off the road... Wanda called from Kenora... George died of a heart attack when he and Gene were getting ready to go hunting."

Reassuring her I would be okay and be home later that night, I shut off the cell phone as a wave of sorrow and a feeling of loss swept over me. With a lump in my throat for company, I began to recall the wonderful times we had with George as I drove on home.

George, like his brother Gene, possessed a sense of humor and a love for fun that was as joyful as it was contagious. Straight faced, George was able to tell the most outrageous tales. You had to be on your toes, as only the twinkle in George's eye would betray you falling victim to Halley humor.

The first time I met George was at the Indianapolis Boat Sport & Travel Show in the early 1990's. At the time, I was yet to experience a quality Canada wilderness fishing trip, and the Halley Brothers Camp came highly recommended. Gene and George had donated a trip for four to Kettle Falls to the Hoosier Outdoor Writers raffle. By a stroke of luck and the grace of God, my wife and I along with fellow HOW member John Davis and his wife Carolyn were on the list to be guests of the camp.

Stopping by the Halley's booth at the boat show, I was eager to put the trip together and confirm the dates. Looking over the maps and the brochures for the lodge with Gene and George, I asked when would be a good time to come. Gene said, "The middle of July would be good."

Thinking the timing of the trip would be tied to a seasonal fishing opportunity, I asked, "Is that when the walleye and northern pike are biting good?"

With an excited look on his face, George said, "No... the fish bite good all the time! If you come up after the first week in July, I'll finally have my pilot's license and I'll be able to fly you all over. I studied nights for 15 years and tried seven times to pass the flight exam and the written test, but I made it and I got my license the first week of July!"

The look of sheer panic on my face was too much. I looked at George with all kinds of imagined misgivings and disbelief. George just smiled and said with a twinkle in his eye, "It's going to be great." Finally, Gene couldn't take it and busted out laughing. When George joined in with a big guffaw, I knew I had been introduced to Halley humor.

With a twinkle in his eye and a chuckle, George assured me he was well-trained and had flown as an accomplished bush pilot in the North Country for years.

(continued next page)

George Halley was one of the most accomplished pilots I've known, too. On one particular trip, George flew my wife and I and John Davis and Carolyn with our two guides, Brian Parker and Gene's son Chris Halley into Margot Lake for some smallmouth fishing.

During the afternoon, the wind shifted and cloud cover began to build. Returning on time, George set the float plane down on the lake and taxied to the beach area. Chatting with Brian and Chris Halley, George said, "I'll take the four of you out first and come back and get the boys later."



I sat up front with George in the co-pilot's seat, and we began to taxi to the end of the lake. Margot Lake was shaped like a capital letter "L" and was lined with tall trees and some rock cliffs.

George asked, "You've done some flying haven't you?" I replied, "Mostly military helicopters as a crew chief."

George continued, "At the end of the long run down the lake, we are going to have to turn away from the wind to have enough distance to get clear. With the wind at our tail, when we turn, she (the plane) is going to drop a bit. That's why I left the boys behind. No sense in taking on too much weight."

Taxing to the very far end of the lake, George gunned the engine and started down Margot. The plane lifted from the water and headed toward a stand of tall trees blocking a direct takeoff. As the plane neared the trees, George turned away from the

wind and down the shorter remaining length of the lake.

For a brief second or two, I could feel the plane drop as it lost lift. Then, like an overgrown goose, the plane began to gain altitude as we very safely cleared the lakeshore and headed back to camp.

Two things you could count on with George; he loved to show you special fishing spots, and you could always count on him to get you home.

George loved pulling a little Halley humor on new guests. When crossing the remote and desolate country taking new guests to a "fly out" day of fishing, George would suddenly stare intently at the plane's dashboard and ask Brian, "What is this switch for?"

Knowing the ploy, Brian would reply, "Remember, they told you that's the landing lights, George." The airplane's compass was in full view of the passengers, and George would take his finger and bump the compass several times, making it spin erratically and appear to be malfunctioning. He would then take down a topo map and pretend to examine it very carefully. With a look of dismay and a shrug of his shoulders, George would ask the guide, Brian Parker, "Do you recognize that funny looking island down there?"

On cue, Brian would come back, "No George, that one doesn't look familiar."

Checking the map again, George would suddenly



turn the map over and say, “Oops, I had it upside down, I know where we are.”

George was an accomplished fisherman, hunter, guide, bush pilot and resort operator. When it came to the Canada wilderness, George protected it, promoted it, lived in it and loved it. He and his wife Sharon decided early on to become part of the resort started by George’s father and mother. As a young couple, they started running a fishing camp out of tents at what is now Kettle Falls, and for 44 years, George and Sharon called Kettle Falls their home.

From George’s obituary in the Kenora, Ontario Daily Miner & News, *“George had a larger than life personality. He was many things to many people, but most of all he was considered to be a great big teddy bear. He was a mountain of a man, strong, yet accommodating, rugged, yet gentle, lighthearted and carefree. He loved spending time with his family, who were a great source of pride and joy. George loved to travel. When not at camp, he and Sharon were constantly on the go. Whether a short hop or a long haul, they traveled many miles and many roads together, both across Canada and in the United States and Mexico.”*

I knew George Halley as a devoted family man of great character, whom I considered a dear friend. He will be greatly missed. It was my pleasure to have known him. The Lord called a good man home.

God speed, old friend. Scout out the new shores, so when I get there, you can once again show me the best spots.

Jack Spaulding

George Halley’s obituary can be read in full on-line at the Kenora Daily Miner & News at: <http://cgi.bowesonline.com/pedro.php?id=3&x=obituaries&xid=59345#59345>

A gallery of photos is also available on-line at <http://www.mem.com>. Search under George Halley.



Instead of flowers, the family had asked that donations be made in George's memory to select charities. Donations may be made online by visiting the following web addresses and clicking on the "Donate" button: The Heart and Stroke Foundation: www.heartandstroke.on.ca. The Canadian Cancer Society: www.cancer.ca, or The Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation: www.lwdhf.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

This page is devoted to the loyal supporting members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Brief descriptions of new products, award-winning products and press releases are listed here. HOW members interested in reading more can visit the supporting member websites or call or email the company contact for more information.

Camp Chef's New Mountain Series Stoves Are Built to Last For Outdoorsmen

Consumer demand paired with dealer requests have culminated in the introduction of the Mountain Series stoves from Camp Chef. Twenty years in the outdoor cooking market has seen a lot of fads and ideas come and go but one thing remains: quality-cooking equipment that is both compact and light. The Mountain Series accomplishes both of those tasks and will add to any trip into the outdoors.



The Mountain Series includes the top-of-the-line Denali three-burner stove, the Rainier two-burner model and the Teton two-burner model. All three stoves make the job of cooking meals in the outdoors as simple as ever.

For more information about the new Camp Chef Mountain Series stoves, please contact Steve McGrath at 800-650-2433 ext. 142 or stevem@campchef.com or check the website: www.campchef.com.

Clam Offers New Portable Ice Shelters

Clam Corporation offers a wide variety of products for the serious ice-fisherman, and some of their most popular are their portable ice shelters. As a matter of fact, Clam is the largest producer of portable ice fishing shelters in North America.

Two of their latest innovations are the two-person or four-person instant set-up portable fishing machines named the Denali II and the Denali IV. These shelters are perfect for serious fishermen and have plenty of room for all their gear. They even include deluxe padded swivel seats with backrests. The extra space eliminates line tangles when you or your partner is bringing the big one through the hole.



For more information about Clam's new Denali ice shelters, please contact Nick Chiodo at Clam Corporation 763-231-4138, nchiodo@clamcorp.com or log onto their website at: www.clamcorp.com.

Supporting Member Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
ATK Ammunition – www.atk.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Bill Lewis Lures – www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks – www.bundyducks.com
Bushnell – www.bushnell.com
Cabela's, Inc. – www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef – www.campchef.com
Clam Corporation – www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crimson Trace - www.crimsontrace.com
CTI Industries – www.zipvac.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Eagle Claw – www.eagleclaw.com
Edgecraft Corp – www.edgecraft.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. – www.hevishot.com
Flambeau – www.flambeauoutdoors.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
Flying Fisherman – www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill – www.frabill.com
Freedom Group - www.freedom-group.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Great American Tool Co. – www.greatamericantool.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Heatmax – www.heatmax.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Horton Mfg Company - www.crossbow.com
HT Enterprises – www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties – www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Afield - www.icoo.com
Kwikee Kwiver Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. – www.mirrorlure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lamiglas – www.lamiglas.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition – www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing – www.lodgemfg.com
Maptech - www.maptech.com
Mathews – www.mathewsinc.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Mossy Oak – www.mossyoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. – www.muzzy.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. – www.offshoretackle.com
Optronics, Inc. – www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Otis Technology – www.otisgun.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's/Lurecraft – www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing – www.lurenet.com
Primos Hunting Calls – www.primos.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions – www.renfroproductions.com
Rocky Brands – www.rockyboots.com
Sebile Lures – www.sebileusa.com
Shimano - www.shimano.com
Snosuit – www.snosuit.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Star Brite – www.starbrite.com
Strikemaster Corporation – www.strikemaster.com
Taylor Brands – www.taylorbrandsllc.com
ThermaCELL – www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. – www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing – www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar – www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics – www.vortexoptics.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery – www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels – www.wavespinreel.com
Wildlife Research Center – www.wildlife.com

HOW members are encouraged to contact our supporting members' websites for general information and answers to product and service questions.

OWAA seeks Scholarship Applicants 2010 Scholarships Can Range from \$1,000 to \$5,000

To: All Media – For Immediate Release
December, 2009

MISSOULA, Mont. – Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) will award scholarships in 2010 to budding outdoor communicators. Bodie McDowell scholarship awards are usually given annually, and scholarships can range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Applicants must be students of outdoor communications fields including print, photography, film, art or broadcasting.

The Bodie McDowell scholarship program is open to all college students, undergraduate and graduate, from all disciplines and all schools. Undergraduate applicants must be entering junior or senior years of study; graduate student applicants must have at least one remaining year of study.

Applicants should have career goals in outdoor communications, provide samples of work, and letters of recommendation. Academic achievement is considered but is not among the top three selection criteria.

OWAA's Education Committee judges and ranks applicants and typically announces winners by June 1. Checks will be issued to successful scholarship recipients by August 10, 2010, before commencement of fall semester.

If you know a student with an outdoor emphasis who might benefit from a Bodie McDowell Scholarship, ask him or her to apply.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2010. Complete details and the application form can be downloaded at <http://owaa.org/scholarships>.

The Bodie McDowell Scholarship is named after longtime OWAA member Bodie McDowell, an OWAA past president and recipient of OWAA's prestigious Ham Brown Award, an award recognizing members for devoted past service to the organization. McDowell is a longtime advocate and fundraiser for the scholarship program.

Since its inception in 1927, OWAA has become the largest and oldest association of professional outdoor communicators in the United States. OWAA's mission is to improve the professional skills of its members, set the highest ethical and communications standards, encourage public enjoyment and conservation of natural resources and mentor the next generation of professional outdoor communicators. The national headquarters is located in Missoula, Montana.

For more information, contact Kevin Rhoades, krhoades@owaa.org

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Photography
_____ Books	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals
_____ Artist	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed
_____ Other (Specify): _____		

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole State.
2. To help insure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual meeting held in Indianapolis.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; two national or four regional



magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year.)

The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; certain sportsmen and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

SHOT Show:

(www.shotshow.org)

Las Vegas, NV

January 19-22, 2010

Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:

(www.hartproductions.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 15-17 and 20-24, 2010

Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.indianapolisboatsportandtravelshow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 19-28, 2010

AGLOW Spring Mega Media Event:

(www.aglow.info)

Branson, MO

May 4-7, 2010

HOW Annual Conference:

Details to follow...

Summer, 2010

OWAA Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Rochester, MN

June 10-13, 2010

POMA Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

LaPorte, IN

August 11-14, 2010

AGLOW Annual Conference:

Ashland, WI

September 12-16, 2010

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: thomas.berg@comcast.net for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.